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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 56**

**46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003**

**INTRODUCED BY**

Kandy Cordova

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT FUNDING MECHANISM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARY MATERIALS ACQUISITION.**

**WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature understands and appreciates the importance of the work of the New Mexico task force for school libraries, a collaborative effort of the New Mexico library association, the New Mexico state library, the state department of public education and the educational and community stakeholders to improve New Mexico school libraries and to ensure educational excellence and equity of educational opportunity for all New Mexico public school students; and**

**WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature considers literacy development and improved student academic performance to be New**

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1 Mexico's top educational priorities; and

2 WHEREAS, national educational research has clearly  
3 established the relationship between quality of school library  
4 collections and student literacy and academic achievement  
5 levels; and

6 WHEREAS, national educational research relating quality of  
7 collections to academic achievement has been confirmed  
8 specifically for New Mexico in a study for which the  
9 preliminary results were released in November 2001; and

10 WHEREAS, the New Mexico task force for school libraries  
11 reported to the legislative education study committee in 2000  
12 on the development of public school library program standards,  
13 the deficiencies of New Mexico school library collections and  
14 the need for improving school library collections and requested  
15 additional funding for these purposes in November 2000; and

16 WHEREAS, maintaining adequate school libraries requires a  
17 stable level of funding;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study  
20 committee and the state department of public education, with  
21 participation of professional school librarians and library  
22 associations, be requested to study the feasibility of the  
23 establishment of a permanent funding mechanism for school  
24 library material similar to the instructional material fund  
25 that guarantees equitable access to textbooks and other

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1 instructional materials; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include as a fiscal  
3 criterion the cost of one book per student per year for each  
4 New Mexico public school student for library acquisitions; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education  
6 study committee and the state department of public education be  
7 requested to report their findings and recommendations to the  
8 legislature by November 2003; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
10 transmitted to the members of the legislative education study  
11 committee and to the superintendent of public instruction.